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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/828,417

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Hyeong-seok Ha

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EXAMINER

PHILIPPE, GIMS S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2621

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/20/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/828,417	Applicant(s) HA ET AL.	
	Examiner Gims S. Philippe	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 22-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 22-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 12, 2009 has been entered.

2. Applicant's response received on August 8, 2008 has been fully considered and entered, but the arguments are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 1, 8, 14 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four categories of inventions.

With respect to claim 1, 8, 14 and 24, Supreme Court precedent and recent Federal Circuit decision indicate that a statutory "process" under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to another statutory category (such as a particular apparatus), or (2) transform

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underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing.

While the instant claim recites a series of steps or acts to be performed, the claim neither transform underlying subject matter nor is positively tied to another statutory category that accomplishes the claimed method steps, and therefore does not qualify as a statutory process.

For example in claim 1, the method of determining a reference picture for blocks including steps of preparing and determining, is of sufficient breadth that it would be reasonably interpreted as a series of steps completely performed mentally, verbally or without a machine.

The applicant has provided no explicit and deliberate definition of assigning, acquiring and selecting to limit the steps of selecting the reference field picture.

Claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-23 and 25-26 are rejected by dependency to claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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6. Claims 1, 7-10, 13-17, 20-21, 24-25, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wu et al. (US Patent Application Publication no. 2006/0193387 A1).

Regarding claim 1, Wu discloses a method of determining a reference picture for blocks constituting a current picture (See Wu's Abstract), the method comprising preparing tag information describing a plurality of pictures (See Wu paragraph [0009]; and determining one of the plurality of pictures to be the reference picture by referring to the tag information (See Wu paragraph [0009, and 0039]), wherein a motion estimation for the blocks constituting a current picture is performed by using the determined reference picture (See We paragraphs [0032, and 0039-0042]).

As per claims 8-9, 14-15, 21, 24, 27 and 29 Wu discloses a method and apparatus for decoding a bitstream having encoded moving picture data, the apparatus comprising a memory unit which stores a reference picture, wherein the reference picture is obtained by performing a motion estimation process on blocks constituting a portion of a current picture by using pictures indicated by a reference index list (See Wu fig. 6, items 610, 611, and 612, and paragraph [0009]), determining a reference picture based on a result of the motion estimation process, performing a monitoring process on tag information attached to the determined reference picture, and determining a reference picture for blocks constituting another portion of the current picture based on a result of the monitoring process, wherein the current picture constitutes the encoded moving picture

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data (See We paragraphs [0032, and 0039-0042]); a motion vector decoding unit which decodes the motion vector extracted from the bitstream; and a motion compensation unit which performs a motion compensation process by using a reference picture read from the memory and a motion vector provided by the motion vector decoding unit (See Wu paragraph [0033]).

As per claim 10, 7, 25, most of the limitations of these claims have been noted in the above rejection of claims 8, 22 and 24. In addition, Wu further provides reference pictures indicating big motion or global change (See [0011]).

As per claims 13, 16 and 20, most of the limitations of these claims have been noted in the above rejection of claim 11. In addition, Wu' step of selecting the potential key frames along with the step of generating global motion signals will show the picture residual error (See figs. 1 and 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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8. Claims 2-3, 5-6, 10-12, 17-19, 26, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu et al. (US Patent Application Publication no. 2006/0193387 A1) in view Gelissen (US Patent Application Publication no. 2005/0114887 A1).

Regarding claims 2-3, 5-6, 10-12, 17-19, 26, 28 and 30, most of the limitations of these claims have been noted in the above rejection of claims 1, 8, 14, 24, 27 and 30.

It is noted that although Wu suggests performing a motion estimation and determining reference picture (See Wu paragraph [0043, lines 1-7]), It is silent about the priority picture assignment as claimed.

However, Gelissen suggests assigning priority to a picture based upon at least the tag information (See Gelissen paragraphs [0018], [0032, lines 7-24], [0033, lines 4-8]).

Therefore, it is considered obvious that one skilled in the art at the time of the invention would recognize the advantage of modifying Wu's motion estimation step by incorporating Gelissen's step of assigning priority to a picture based upon at least the tag information. The motivation for performing such a modification in Wu is to use parameters to prioritize in order to control the performance of scalable decoders as taught by Gelissen (See Gelissen [0033]).

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9. Claims 22-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gims S. Philippe whose telephone number is (571) 272-7336. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (10:30-7:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Gims S Philippe
Primary Examiner
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/G. S. P./
/Gims S Philippe/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621